

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Tepelene Concentration Camp	DATE DISTR.	29 May 1953	
		NO. OF PAGES	4	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	25X1

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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1. In the concentration camp at Tepelene about 1,000 to 1,300 persons are detained, mostly families of persons who have escaped to Yugoslavia  In addition to the Albanian prisoners, there are some Yugoslavs  who are not usually treated as well as the Albanians. About 70 per cent of the detainees are women and children; the greater part of the remainder are able-bodied men, most of whom are suspect for political reasons, among which is the offense of having had friends who escaped abroad. The persons in the camp come from all parts of Albania, although the larger group comes from the northern provinces.

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2. The camp is situated about two kilometers north<sup>1</sup> of Tepelene, near the point at which the Bencia River empties into the Vijose River. The area has a barracks building for prisoners which consists of a single building which has four rooms 5 x 20 meters. Within the rooms there are four rows of two-story bunks which are placed in double rows along two of the walls, with another two rows placed in the middle of the room. The building itself is constructed of hard-surface material with a tile roof but no ceiling. The detainees live in this building grouped together according to families. About 300 to 350 people are quartered in each room and the prisoners are permitted to pass freely back and forth through the rooms. Due to the fact that there is very little insulation in the buildings and no provision for heating, living conditions become extremely difficult during the winter. In addition to the barracks building, there is also a management building which is 8 or 10 x 4 meters. It is divided into four rooms of equal size and is built of hard-surface materials with a tile roof. This contains the offices of the prison director and his assistants as well as lodgings for the policemen. There is also a warehouse in which the food for the camp and forage for the animals are stored. The small hospital building has four rooms and is used mostly for medical examinations, although there are some beds for those who are sick. The bakery building is 20 x 20 meters. It is built with the same materials as the other buildings, and it serves also as a barber shop and storage room, as well as a joiner shop. Other structures in the compound include a kitchen which is divided into two rooms, one for cooking and one for food storage; a stable 4 x 4.5 meters; and ten or twelve toilets.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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3. The guard system consists of five policemen who are on duty mostly during the night with only one man on duty during the day. In addition, there is also a prisoner on duty at all times in the prisoners' barracks. In general, treatment is not bad in comparison with other camps and there is no serious maltreatment such as beatings. The punishments usually consist of admonitions, particularly in the case of Albanians and women; foreigners may receive rougher treatment such as imprisonment or deprivation of food.
4. Each prisoner must furnish his own sheets and blankets since these are not available at the camp. It is not uncommon in the case of prisoners who did not bring their blankets from home or those who have no home or friends to have to sleep on the bare bunk without bedding. Each one must also supply his own shoes and clothes since the state issues none of these things even for replacement. As a result, many of the prisoners are dressed in rags and remnants since the clothes wear out rapidly doing heavy work. The only thing that the state furnishes besides food is a cake of soap each month. Prisoners may, if they have friends on the outside who can help, receive unlimited sums of money which can then be used to purchase food and supplies in the town.
5. The food is cooked by the prisoners themselves. Each prisoner gets 600 grams of wheat bread daily; there are three meals a day: tea in the morning, a soup of beans, macaroni, or potatoes for lunch, and quite often the same thing for supper; rice is also added to this diet occasionally. The food is usually not cooked with proper care and under unsanitary conditions so that it is tasteless as well as unhealthful. It is always insufficient so that many when they get their bread ration in the morning eat it immediately and have none for the other two meals. Prisoners are permitted to receive food parcels from home after they have been inspected by the police, and those who have relatives can maintain their health; however, those who have no relatives or no money are usually insufficiently fed. The food is served in canteen cups for individuals and in a larger receptacle for families. The cups and other utensils must also be brought from home by the prisoners. Some vegetables and fruits are grown in the camp by prison labor; however, these are used by the police and administration and are not fed to the prisoners. Large quantities of supplies such as flour, beans, macaroni, etc., are not stored in the camp but are usually brought in daily from the outside.
6. In this camp prisoners are not subjected to political indoctrination  25X1  
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 However, the daily press is read every evening and attendance is compulsory. The reading of literary works and the daily papers is permitted. There are no movies or other cultural activities.
7. Visitors are permitted to see the prisoners as often as desired, although they are not admitted inside the camp enclosure. A policeman usually listens to the prisoner's conversation; however, there is no time limit on the visits and they may even last as long as two hours.
8. The sanitary situation in the camp is very bad and a large number of the prisoners are sick, many with tuberculosis, which is also aggravated by the lack of food and heating facilities, as well as the hard work. The largest group among those who are sick consists of children and adult men. The children are affected because they are not strong enough and the men because they are exhausted by the hard work. Medical care in the camp is inadequate and the camp is usually visited once or sometimes twice a month by a physician from the town of Tepelene. He usually sends the serious patients to the hospital in Gjinokaster and the others are treated and remain in the camp. Other illnesses which affect the prisoners are malaria, which is chronic with many prisoners, and dysentery which occurs occasionally in epidemic proportions. During the epidemic of dysentery in 1950, about 100 people died in the course of the three months which it lasted. These illnesses are aggravated by the fact that no hygienic measures whatsoever are undertaken by the administration and there are no

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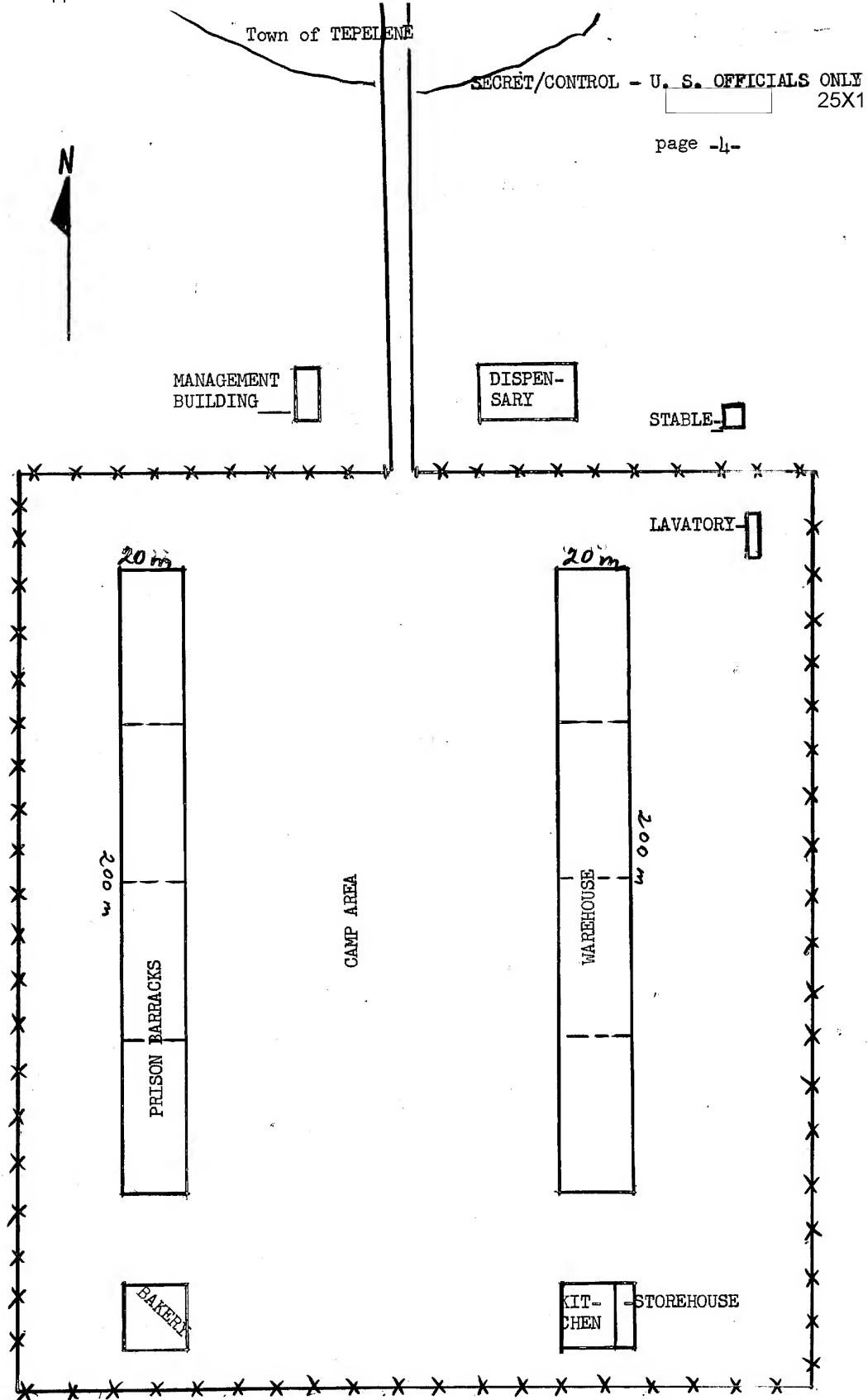
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assigned days for laundry or bathing, as well as by the shortage of soap. Nothing is done to get rid of the numerous insects, fleas, bedbugs, and lice, which are in the living quarters and particularly in the beds. No brooms are furnished and the rooms are swept occasionally with branches; the floor is washed once a week.

9. The main work of the prisoners is to cut trees on the mountain above Tepelene. Each worker has a daily quota of work which must be completed; the quota for cutting trees is at least one cubic meter of lumber per person for each day. The workers also work within the camp itself, building new installations, or are assigned on other projects such as building railroad lines or installations in some other city. For instance, from May to November 1950, part of the prisoners went to work on the railroad line between Elbasan and Pecina, and others were assigned to help build a factory in Vlone. All able-bodied male and female prisoners work, and only the very old women, children, and women who have babies are excepted from work. Usually the healthiest of the male prisoners are selected for cutting trees, and the female prisoners are used for the transport of logs or for housework. There is no particular work schedule and the work is done from dawn to sunset for a least six days a week without regard for the weather, and quite often on Sunday. For the mid-day meal the prisoners get one hour and usually receive their lunch on the job. The groups of prisoners who are working usually vary from 20 to 150 people; one prisoner is selected as chief of the group and he is responsible for the work of all members of the group. Other than the group leader and one policeman who may accompany the prisoners, the work is not supervised because each has his own quota which must be fulfilled. Those groups who are not assigned a specific job are notified of their particular work at roll call in the morning; the jobs of these groups may be changed from time to time without regard to previous assignments. If a prisoner feels ill, he can report to the administration and request an easier job. If he should be quite ill, he may be excused from work; however, those who pretend to be ill in order to avoid work are severely punished.
10. Amnesties are granted occasionally, as on 29 November 1950 when a member of the Ministry of the Interior came to the camp and stated that in order to celebrate the liberation of Albania under Hoxha, 150 families as well as the children in the camp could be released; these latter were to be taken care of by relatives and friends. The prisoners were also warned that "when you go back home keep in mind that you must respect and execute the orders of the authorities. Otherwise, you will be returned to the camp."
1.   Comment: The directions given are not clear, since the text locates the camp north of the town, whereas the sketch locates the town north of the camp. 25X1

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CONCENTRATION CAMP AT TEPELENE  
NOT TO SCALE

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Lake Maliq Concentration Camp	DATE DISTR.	29 May 1953	
		NO. OF PAGES	4	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
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- The Maliq concentration camp is located about two kilometers northeast of Lake Maliq between the edge of the swamp formed by the lake and the road to Pogradec. There are usually about 1,500 prisoners in the camp and they come from the various smaller prisons located in the area at Elbasan, Tirana, Korce, and Vlone. The prisoners are both political offenders and common criminals; however, they are not separated according to these categories as is the case in the various prisons. There is much dissatisfaction among the prisoners, particularly the political offenders, since many of them are innocent and have been placed in the camp merely on suspicion or because of the escape from the country of relatives.

- The camp is managed by a Camp Commissar, Lt. Diordii (lnu).

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of the camp is Celi (lnu)

The chief

supply officer is Captain Lazo (lnu)

The camp

is the Cadet Sefket (fnu)

The assistant camp manager

There is also another assistant, a former sergeant, who is in charge of the camp warehouse. In addition to the foregoing, there is also the camp Secretariat which consists of a non-commissioned police officer and a private policeman; they maintain the list of prisoners and make roll-calls. The attitude of the management toward the prisoners is very bad and mistreatment, beatings, and stern punishment for the slightest errors are common. Other punishments include the prohibition of food packages from home, prohibition of visitors, solitary confinement without food and water, and exposure of the prisoner to the sun.

- The prisoners are organized into twelve work brigades, each consisting of from 120 to 140 men. Each brigade is composed of three companies, and each company of three platoons. The personnel commanding the various units are elected by

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the prisoners themselves, although each brigade is under the supervision of a policeman. In 1951 the prisoner-commander of all the brigades was Hamdi Lena who had formerly been a Captain in the security forces in Korce but who had been sentenced to ten years in prison because he killed his wife.

4. The prisoners are lodged in wooden barracks with a brigade in each barracks. The barracks are not divided into rooms and along the walls there are two rows of two-storied bunks in which the prisoners sleep. The state does not provide any bedding and those prisoners who have none must sleep on the bare bunk. The barracks are not insulated against the weather, however, they do have electric lights. Each prisoner is furnished a work suit consisting of pants, shirt, and coat, since their work is concerned with the drainage of Lake Maliq and requires that they work in water much of the time. However, if the prisoner does not have some clothes of his own for a change when he returns from work, he must remain in the wet clothing, and many have become ill for this reason. In addition to work suits, prisoners are also furnished a pair of sandals; no underwear is furnished.
5. Prisoners work 10 hours a day, unless overtime is ordered by the commander of the brigade. Since they are digging the channel to dry Lake Maliq, they are usually in water which comes up to the knees, and sometimes up to the waist; however, the work goes on without regard for the weather or the season of the year. Another work hazard is the large number of leeches in the channel which attack the prisoners. As a result of these conditions, many prisoners become ill and often as many as 150 of them require daily medical assistance. The camp doctor, Isuf Isen Regasi, is also a prisoner who has been sentenced to life imprisonment. He is a native of the village of Starova in the Pogradec District. Although he is a good physician, he has neither the instruments nor the medicines required. Besides this work, the prisoners also work in the camp and at various jobs for the camp management as they are assigned.

Work Schedule:

Awakening .....	0300
Washing and room cleaning.....	0300 - 0330
Breakfast.....	0330 - 0400
Traveling to work.....	0400 - 0500
Work.....	0500 - 1400
Traveling back to camp.....	1400 - 1500
Lunch.....	1500 - 1600
Recreation (free time, rest).....	1600 - 1830
Supper.....	1830 - 1900
Recreation (free time, rest).....	1900 - 2100
Lights out (Curfew).....	2100

In addition to this regular schedule, work is often continued for one or two more hours so that quitting time may be 1500 or 1600 hours. The time provided for recreation or rest is usually used for some other kind of work.

6. Food is provided three times daily. The bread ration is 500 grams, a mixture of wheat

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and rye which is usually insufficiently baked; it is given to the prisoners at noon. Cooked food is provided only for breakfast and lunch, and for supper there is tea. The cooked food usually consists of soups of macaroni, beans, or squash. Each prisoner is supposed to receive 100 grams of meat daily, although this rarely happens. Prisoners are allowed to receive food parcels to supplement their diet.

7. Most of the prisoners plan to escape; however, since the camp is well guarded there are only a very few attempts and, in fact, only six or seven escaped in 1951. In case of escape the border guards are immediately informed; at the same time patrols are sent after the prisoner. After a few days, the management usually states, in order to discourage others, either that the prisoner has been captured, or that he was killed while attempting to cross the border to Yugoslavia or Greece.

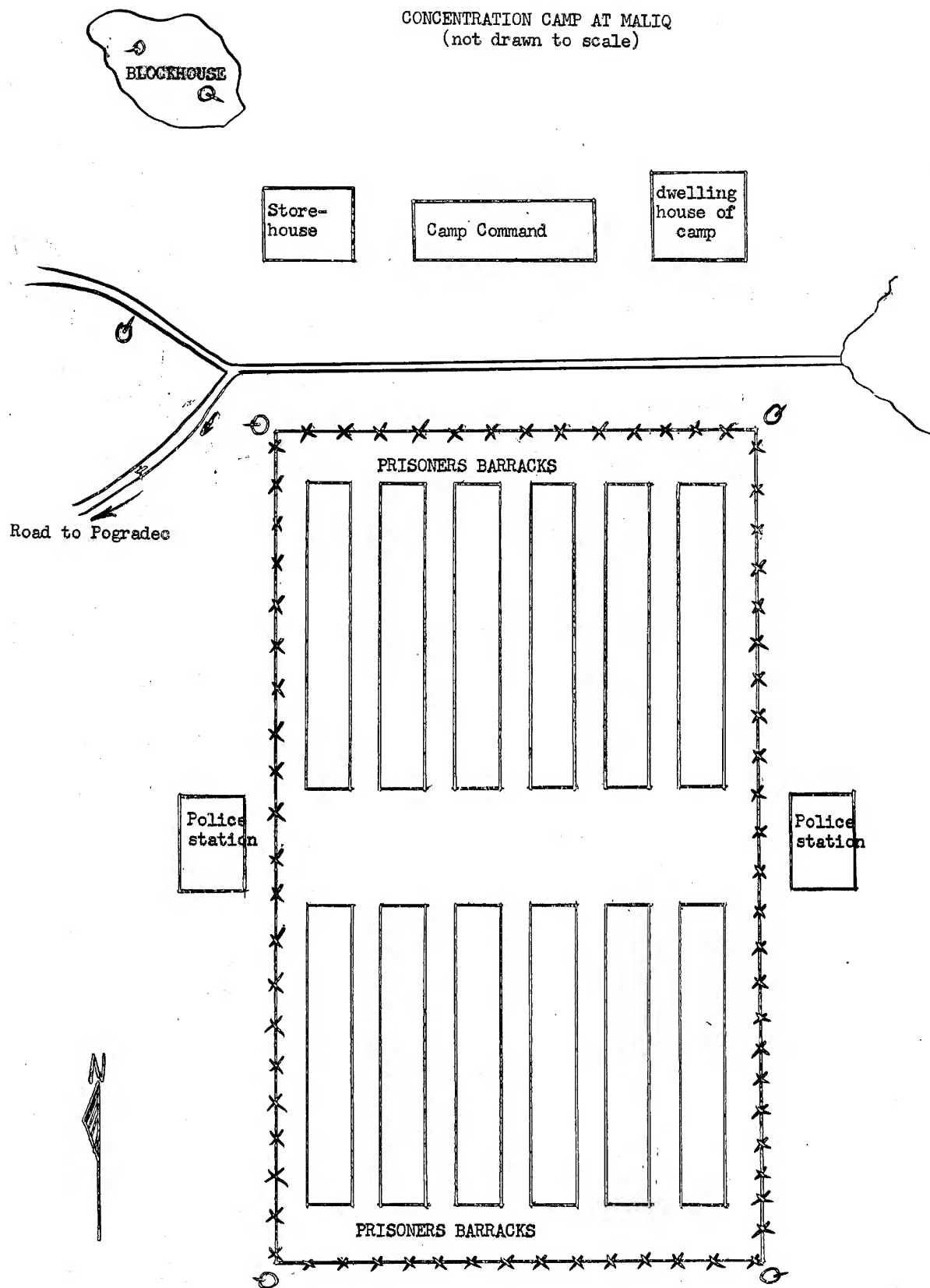
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CONCENTRATION CAMP AT MALIQ  
(not drawn to scale)



Symbol for machine gun—G

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